



RESIDENT GRADING AND QUALITY CONTROL SERVICE



The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's (AMS) Dairy Grading Branch offers many services on a voluntary, user fee basis that help provide the assurance of wholesome and high-quality milk and dairy products. The Resident Grading and Quality Control Service combines plant survey, inspection and grading, and quality laboratory services into one comprehensive service. This service provides the dairy processing plant with the greatest assurance that high quality, wholesome dairy products are manufactured.

Buyers seek top quality in the dairy products they buy, and AMS can help manufacturers meet those requirements. The Dairy Standardization Branch has established standards or specifications for many dairy products. Products are inspected and graded according to internationally recognized quality criteria. When purchasing by specific grade, the buyer can expect uniformity and consistency of taste, feel, appearance, and color of the product.

BENEFITS OF A RESIDENT GRADER

Technical Assistance: The resident grader, who is trained in dairy and food technology, works closely with plant management to identify potential problems before they arise and to make routine checks on sanitation. The grader's work protects the processor, wholesaler, retailer, and consumer by evaluating every step of production. The grader checks, for example, the sanitation of processing equipment prior to its use and the pasteurizing temperature of milk or cream.

Resident Graders assigned to plants are provided specialized training at the AMS, Science and Technology Programs laboratory. This laboratory also provides technical audits and a monthly comparison check sample program to assure technical proficiency.

Improved Product Quality and Wholesomeness: Everyone seeks top quality in the dairy products they buy, and AMS can help manufacturers meet that requirement. The Dairy Standardization Branch has established standards or specifications for many dairy products. Products are inspected and graded according to quality and appearance.

The manufacturer has the assurance that the USDA resident inspector has checked the plant, incoming raw products, and processing procedures to help maintain the desired quality and wholesomeness.

Product Uniformity: Dairy product grading and supervision of quality control laboratory services promote and enhance product uniformity. All products with the same USDA grade meet the same standard of quality and wholesomeness. When selecting by specific grade, the buyer can expect uniformity and consistency of taste, feel, appearance, and color of the product.

Fast Response Time: The rapid response time of grading and laboratory analyses of the on-site Resident Grader can be a major asset to the plant process control procedures that assures high quality products and for meeting customer requirements for shipment.

On-Site Composition Analysis: Laboratory services consists of on-site analytical and quality control tests. Services include all chemical and bacteriological determinations needed to evaluate class, quality, condition, and keeping properties.

Dispute Resolution: AMS can also act as a mediator between the dairy plant and the buyer if there is a disagreement between the two over quality, composition, condition, or weight.

FOR

MORE

INFORMATION

For more information about USDA dairy services, write to: USDA/AMS/Dairy Division, Dairy Grading Branch, Room 2746-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW - Stop 0230, Washington, DC 20250-0230, or call the Dairy Grading Branch at 202-720-3171, fax 202-720-2643, or e-mail at First name.Last name@usda.gov (for example: Duane.Spomer@usda.gov.)

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